



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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1-9-2007 School Committee Minutes

**THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2007**

Present: Sue Sheffler, Chair
Susan Lovelace, Vice Chair
Paul Schlichtman, Secretary

Sean Garballey
Jeff Thielman
Martin Thrope

Superintendent: Nate Levenson
Asst. Supt.: Kevin Hutchinson
Chief Financial Off Sue Mazzarella
Sp. Ed. Director: Barbara Cataldo
Student Rep.: Sean Conroy and Ella Hartenian

Absent: Kathy Fennelly

Call to order: 7:35

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

CONSENT AGENDA – all items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the Committee so request, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence.
*Approval of Warrant # 07080 in the amount of \$313,231.43
*Approval of Warrant # 07088 in the amount of \$343,644.76

On a motion by Mr. Thielman seconded by Ms. Lovelace
Voted to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.
Unanimously 6-0

BUDGET PRESENTATION

Supt. Levenson stated that we are at the beginning stages of Budget Development Process with tough times, and many tough choices. Expenses are growing faster than revenue. We are not spending too much or spending unwisely. Special Education costs are growing too quickly, and this puts a lot of pressure on our budget. We will need to be setting priorities.

Supt Levenson discussed our staffing on the secondary level based on enrollment by each department. Most teacher positions are full time and he is in support of hiring teachers who are looking for part-time positions. We want to continue to hire the very best teachers.

Supt. Levenson is certain that expense will exceed our revenue. Supt Levenson and the Budget Subcommittee are mindful of the need for extra revenue and continue to collect information on the rental fees of the Peirce Field and the concession stand. In support of increasing revenue we are continuing discussions of the cell antenna being installed at the Peirce School and looking for more grants. A more likely alternative would be to increase revenue by raising our fees. Athletic and all day kindergarten fees are low compared to other towns and will continue to be looked into.

Special Ed spending is up by \$1,845,000 and we have moral and legal obligations to support our students. Arlington is not unique to the special ed expense and this is similar across the state.

It was reported that the school resource officer has been a success. The police department supported the expenditure of this and it was agreed to support the school resource officers arrangement in the future except the cost will be split with the school and police department next school year.

It was requested that principals and department heads continue to make suggestions but not to suggest something new without suggesting to him what it will replace.

BREAK

DISCUSSION OF BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE RESEARCH

Presented were highlights of specific data about each fee-based programs the Arlington Public School currently have. Also presented was data about tax information on the Arlington Annual Report for 2005.

A discussion of increasing fees and the decrease of student participation in extra curricular activities was raised. On the recommendation of the board, and Ms. Lovelace the public should attend the Arlington School Committee Budget Subcommittee Meeting Public Forum which will Review FY08 School budget on Monday, January 29, 2007 from 7:00- 9:00 pm.

Student Reps Mr. Conroy and Ms. Hartenian both expressed concerns about the fees for extra curricular activities and the impact of decline in student involvement.

*A motion by Mr. Thrope and seconded by Ms. Lovelace,
Voted to have the Community Relations Subcommittee be directed to explore with the Peirce community the possibility of citing a cell antenna at the Peirce School, as soon as feasible -
All in favor 6-0 unanimous*

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Supt Levenson asked the School Committee to vote and to accept the bottom line figure on the Operating Budgets

On a motion by Ms.Lovelace, seconded by Ms. Sheffler

Voted that the School Committee submit to the Finance Committee of the town that we anticipate the bottom line number to be \$36,652, 859.

Amended by Mr. Thrope subject to revision at a later date.

Vote with amendment 6 – 0 unanimously

Supt. Levenson has learned from the past year that sharing budget news is always tough but will continue to keep staff posted. Since the entire administrative team will be developing the budget, they too will be able to communicate with staff.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Sheffler reminded everyone that the Budget Summit is scheduled for this Thursday, January 11, 2007 at the Town Hall.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Community Relations Subcommittee met on December 18, 2006 with Charles Skidmore, Principal, AHS, David Johnson, Athletic Director, AHS and Dan Hirsch, Football and Baseball Coach regarding the Dual County League that Arlington was invited to join.

On a motion by Mr. Schlichtman, second by Mr. Thielman

Voted to endorse the move to the Dual Country League

All in favor, 6-0 unanimous

Upcoming events

• The next Community Relations Subcommittee will be at 6pm on January 16, 2007

*• The School Committee will be having a **Budget Public Forum on January 29, 2007 7:00 – 9:00 pm** in the School Committee Room and encourages the public to attend.*

•

The Policies and Procedures Subcommittee met on Wednesday, January 3, 2007 and addressed one of the issues regarding the Special Education PAC.

On a motion by Mr. Garballey seconded by Ms. Sheffler

Voted to move this matter having the Special Education PAC to meet with the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Subcommittee.

All in favor 6 – 0 unanimous

Also discussed was the policy BDAA. Mr. Thrope presented a memo regarding BDAA.

On a motion by Mr.Schlichtman seconded by Ms. Sheffler

Voted to move to postpone consideration of BDAA until May when new committee will be here and will be impacted by the

recommendation.

2-4 motion fails this will go to second reading

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr.. Schlichtman pointed out many interesting articles in the Ponder Report, noted the MLK Committee is having a potluck dinner, and announced that Andrea Cabral, Sheriff of Suffolk County is the Guest Speaker on Monday, January 15, 2007.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Garballey attended the No place for Hate presentation given by Lt. Hughes tonight for about 1 hour before our meeting and noted that Lt. Hughes gave a great presentation, and all community members attended and everyone seemed motivated with this new program. Also, in 2003 Mr. Garballey started the Student Advisor Council and currently there is no liaison from the School Committee to the SAC. Mr. Garballey volunteered to be the liaison.

On a motion by Mr. Schlichtman seconded by Ms. Sheffler

Voted to have Mr. Garballey to be the liaison to the SAC and it was

Unanimously Voted 6-0

Mr. Thrope requested to have the Executive Minutes from past meetings approved. This is being looked into. It was also requested to have the school agenda be posted on the website.

On a motion by Mr. Thielman seconded by Ms. Lovelace

It was unanimously voted to adjourn at 10:55 pm

ADJOURN

Submitted by

Karen Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant to the School Committee